

The Columbus Commercial

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STREET TO HEAD CIVIC CHAMBER

POPULAR DRUGGIST SUCCEEDS DR. J. W. LIPS-COMB TO CHAIR.

ENTHUSIASM IS SHOWN AT MEETING

Officers Submit Reports Showing What Has Been Done During Past Year.

Members of the Chamber of Commerce of Columbus and Lowndes County held their annual meeting on Tuesday night and elected officers for the ensuing year, the election having resulted as follows: S. B. Street, president; I. I. Kaufman, vice-president; T. J. Locke, director of organization; R. E. Leigh, director of retail affairs; R. E. Johnston, director of public affairs; I. L. Gaston, director of financial affairs; R. B. Claggett, V. B. Ines, R. B. Banks, W. E. Kennedy and Carroll Hackleman, directors at large.

The meeting was an enthusiastic one, an interesting feature having been the reading of the reports from the various committees on the work accomplished during the past year. While times have been hard and the Chamber has done nothing sensational it has at the same time worked quietly and unobtrusively and has accomplished many things calculated to benefit Columbus and the contiguous territory.

Dr. J. W. Lipscomb presided over the meeting, while Mr. W. H. Carter officiated as secretary, and short addresses were delivered by several members, prominent among the speakers having been State Senator W. P. Stribling, Mr. John McConnell, Mr. Jake Kaufman and others.

Senator Stribling, who possesses unusual gifts as a speaker, delivered a splendid address and offered some valuable suggestions, among them having been on the effect that the annual reports of all officers be published so that not only members but the public at large can keep up with the activities of the organization and see what is being accomplished. Mr. McConnell's address was not only interesting but witty, his auditors having been kept laughing during practically the entire time that he occupied the floor.

Mr. Kaufman's talk also was interesting, he having declared that he had rather have good roads in Lowndes county as a result of the Chamber of Commerce than to have a big cotton crop.

Following these addresses, the regular business of the chamber was transacted.

SUDDEN DEATH OF GEORGE HICKEY, SR., SHOCKS FRIENDS

WELL KNOWN CITIZEN EXPIRES AT HIS HOME IN EAST COLUMBUS.

Mr. George Hickey, Sr., a well known and highly respected citizen, died at his home, No. 1706 South Sixth avenue, about 1 o'clock Tuesday, and his death, which was sudden and unexpected, proved a severe shock to his family and friends.

JURY CONVICTS BLACKMAIL HEAD

WILLIAM BUTLER, NEFARIOUS CROOK, SENT UP FOR 18 MONTHS.

WHITE SLAVE ACT IS METHOD USED

E. R. West Accepts Personal Humiliation in Order to Appear as Witness.

New York, Sept. 27.—William Butler, chief figure in the country-wide black-mailing conspiracy under investigation in several cities, today pleaded guilty to swindling Mrs. Regina Klipper, of Philadelphia. He was at once sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment in the Atlanta penitentiary.

Butler was brought here today from Philadelphia for arraignment. He was accused of blackmailing Mrs. Klipper at an uptown hotel here in April last under the guise of being a special agent of the department of justice.

Butler is the first of the alleged blackmailers to get a prison sentence. They are accused of operating in various cities with many persons of wealth as their victims, using the Mann white slave act as a means of blackmail.

Butler was first arrested in Philadelphia, January last, on the charge of having attempted to extort \$8,000 from Mrs. J. Bolton Wimpenny, a wealthy resident of that city, for the suppression of a fictitious "white slave" complaint against her son, Marshall Wimpenny. This charge fell through on the death of Mrs. Wimpenny three weeks ago.

Besides Butler, the indictment returned in the Klipper case names: Frank Croker, Arthur L. Davil, Geo. Irwin and Edward Desha. The latter is now under arrest in Chicago, charged with being concerned in the recent kidnapping of Mrs. Klipper from Philadelphia to Montreal for the purpose of obstructing justice in the trial of Irwin. David, also known as Don Collins, is serving a term in the federal prison at Atlanta for using the mails to defraud.

Butler pleaded guilty to the conspiracy count of the indictment but was told by Federal Prosecutor Knox that it would not relieve him from prosecution on other counts or indictments yet to be found in the blackmailing cases.

Explaining the situation to Judge Manton, Mr. Knox stated that the conspiracy to defraud Mrs. Klipper was hatched in Butler's home in Philadelphia, and, although he was thoroughly familiar with all the details of that and similar crimes, he had not attempted to aid the government in the prosecution of any of them.

"He has it in his power to furnish the department of justice with information of inestimable value," said Prosecutor Knox, "but seemingly he does not choose to do so, and therefore the acceptance of the conspiracy plea is all the leniency he is entitled to under the circumstances."

Butler's attorney, in urging a light sentence, remarked that his client was the first of the defendants in the blackmailing cases to plead guilty, and that the plea on the conspiracy count did not cover participation in the alleged extortion at the New York hotel. The sentence of 18 months was two months less than the limit for conspiracy.

Mrs. Mings' Home Burned.
Fire which is believed to have originated from a defective flue, last Thursday afternoon destroyed the country home of Mrs. Bettie Mings, two miles west of Artesia. Not only the house and furniture were burned but the flames also consumed \$25 in currency, which belonged to a member of the family. The loss is estimated at between \$2,000 and \$2,500, and is only partially covered by insurance.

Mrs. L. Marx and daughter, Miss Ida, have returned from a visit of several months to Illinois and Colorado.

ber of Queen City Camp, No. 23, Woodmen of the World, and other fraternal organizations. His death is universally regretted, and countless friends join the Commercial in extending sympathy to the bereaved family.

The funeral was held yesterday morning from the family residence, conducted by Rev. W. S. Slack, interment having taken place at Friendship cemetery.

THE FEMININE IDEA OF "PREPAREDNESS."



—Patrick in New Orleans Times-Picayune.

ANGLO-FRENCH FORCES TAKE BOTH THIEPVAL AND COMBLES

AFTER HARD FIGHT THE VICTORIOUS ALLIES ENTER STRONGHOLD.

London, Sept. 27.—Combles, the pivotal point in the German line guarding the approach to Bapaume, on the north, and Peronne, on the south of the Somme river, has fallen before the terrific assaults of the French and British, the Germans fighting to the death or surrendering when there was no longer hope.

French and British troops swept in from three sides after their capture of Morval and Fregicourt, broke through the German defenses, overran the town and carried all before them. This place, with its marvelous subterranean passages and powerful fortifications, had been caught in the grip of the entente allies, who coming from the north and south had already advanced far beyond it and cut off communication with the rear except a narrow strip, which was covered by the allied guns. At the end of the fighting the town was filled with the bodies of German who had fallen fighting, the French official statement says.

Defeat Recognized.
Prior to the loss of Combles, the effect of the victories of the French and British armies in the capture of important strategic points on the previous day was reflected in the official communication issued by the German war office which, after describing briefly the great artillery bombardment of the entente allies, lasting four days and the attack between the Ancre and the Somme, admits that "the conquest of the villages on the line of Gueudecourt must be recognized," and adds, "but before all we must think of our heroic troops who faced the united Anglo-French principal forces and the massed employment of material of the whole world's war industry prepared during many months."

Other Points Taken.
Both Thiepval, at the northwest end of the British line, and the fortified town of Gueudecourt, northwest of Les Boeufs, also have fallen into the hands of the British. Around the former place many hard battles have been fought since the inception of the great allied offensive on July 1. General Haig's men, after capturing Thiepval, drove on eastward and took the Zollern redoubt, a strongly fortified position which lies between Thiepval and the bend in the British line at Courcellette.

Meeting of W. C. T. U.
The meeting of the W. C. T. U. will be held in the home of Mrs. A. E. Myrick on South Seventh street this afternoon at 4 o'clock. A full attendance is desired, as the business for the year will be closed, and delegates named to attend the annual convention which is to be held in Meridian, October 6 to 9.

Mrs. Julius Loeb has returned to Columbus after a visit to her daughter, Mrs. J. Rubel, in Aberdeen.

CLAIMS SHOOTING ACCIDENTAL; BUT IS HELD FOR GRAND JURY

WESTLEY COLEMAN WHO SHOT AND KILLED A NEGRO, TO FACE INQUISITORIAL BODY.

Westley Coleman, the negro who shot and killed a white man, another Ethiopian, at the house in "Little Memphis," a settlement in the northeastern suburbs of the city, last Sunday afternoon, had a preliminary hearing before Justice of the Peace T. M. Cummings Monday morning, and was bound over in the sum of \$500 to await the action of the grand jury. The negro could not furnish bond, and was remanded to jail for safe-keeping.

Officers Morton, Foreman and Moorehead charged to be in the neighborhood when the killing took place, having gone to the suburb in search of another negro, and, having heard the shot which killed Smith, went immediately to the scene of the shooting to make an investigation. There were several witnesses to the tragedy, and all declare the shooting to have been accidental. In the discrepancies in their statements aroused the suspicions of the representatives of the law, and Coleman was placed under arrest.

While all the negroes present Sunday afternoon declared the shooting to have been accidental, two witnesses placed on the stand at the trial Monday morning swore that Coleman unbreached the shotgun with which Smith was killed less than a minute before the fatal explosion, and therefore must have known that the weapon was loaded. This convinced Judge Cummings that there was some doubt as to whether the shooting was accidental, and he decided to bind the prisoner over to await the action of the grand jury.

STORES OF JEWISH CITIZENS WILL ALL BE CLOSED TODAY

SPECIAL SERVICES WILL BE HELD IN OBSERVANCE OF ROSH HASIANA.

Rosh Hashana, the Jewish new year 5677, will today be observed by the local Israelites and all of their stores will be closed. The holiday began at sundown yesterday evening, and special services were held at Temple B'Nai Israel, conducted by Rabbi Simon Leb at 7:45 o'clock.

Special services will be held at Temple B'Nai Israel this morning at 10 o'clock and the people of Columbus, irrespective of creed, are cordially invited to attend.

Yom Kippur, the day of atonement, follows ten days after Rosh Hashana, and this holiday will also be appropriately observed by local Israelites.

HAPPENINGS OF INTEREST GATHERED HERE AND THERE

GIST OF NEWS FROM OVER THE COUNTRY GIVEN IN A BRIEF FORM.

General Bell at El Paso has wired General Pershing that the Chiricahua officers who made their way to Juarez from Chihuahua City confirmed his report regarding the late Villa attack on the latter city. These officers participated in the battle. He did not explain the manner in which the information was obtained.

Luther Crawford, of West Fairview, Pa., born without hands, has been chosen as president of the council of his home town.

American exports finally have passed the half billion dollar a month mark. Statistics issued by the department of commerce show that goods sent abroad in August were valued at \$510,000,000, a record not only for this country, but of the world. The total is \$35,000,000 above the previous high record established in May, and \$45,000,000 higher than the June figure. Imports decreased in August, the total of \$199,248,391 being \$47,000,000 below that of June, the record month of the year.

Although retail prices for food decreased one per cent during 1915, wholesale quotations averaged one per cent higher for the year than in 1914, and wholesale prices in general showed a considerably larger increase, according to figures made public in Washington by the bureau of labor statistics. The greatest changes recorded by any one group on wholesale markets were in metals and metal products, which jumped 11 per cent.

Mississippi factory owners and others employing labor will not be affected by the federal child labor law, according to David McDowell of Jackson, child labor law inspector for the state. Mississippi's child labor law, which has been in effect for the last two years will not permit factory owners to employ boys under 12 and girls under 14 years. The federal law of the same nature will not permit the employment of boys or girls under 14 years, hence Mississippi factory owners will be required to obey the state law, which, as far as Mississippi is concerned, includes the federal law.

Mrs. Rebecca Harris Dies.
Mrs. Rebecca Harris, 83, venerable mother of Hon. J. R. Harris, a member of the board of supervisors and of Hon. Joe Harris, who was formerly deputy sheriff, died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. James Harris, at Steens, Miss., Monday afternoon. Mrs. Harris had been in comparatively good health up to a few days ago, when she was stricken with paralysis, and her death speedily followed. The funeral took place at Beersheba cemetery, near Steens, Tuesday afternoon, having been conducted by Rev. J. R. Gregory.

POSTPONEMENT OF COURT ANNOUNCED

MAJ. LINCOLN REQUESTS JUDGE WOODWARD TO DELAY OCT. TERM.

WILL CONVENE ON OCTOBER 9

Fact That Supervisors Will Be in Session Next Week Causes Request.

Chancery Clerk B. A. Lincoln has requested Judge Albert Y. Woodward to postpone for one week the fall term of chancery court, which, under the provisions of the code, is scheduled to begin next Monday. The chancellor has acceded to the request and the term will not convene until Monday, October 9. The request was predicated upon the fact that the board of supervisors will be in session next week, and that it is necessary for the chancery clerk to be present when they meet. The law also requires him to be present at every session of chancery court, and although Major Lincoln is a big man physically, mentally and cardially he, like all mortals, has his limitations, and can not possibly be in two different places at one and the same time.

A docket of about the usual size awaits Judge Woodward's disposal. Among the important cases thereon is the controversy over the ownership of the estate of the late Mrs. M. B. Portwood, the estimated value of which is between \$60,000 and \$75,000. Mrs. Portwood died in February, 1914, and soon thereafter two instruments, each purporting to be her last will and testament, were filed for probate. One of these instruments bequeathed the property to the heirs of the late Mrs. Regina Harrison Lee, a sister of the testatrix, while the other named as beneficiaries the heirs of her brother, the late Thomas Blewett.

Litigation began soon after the two documents were filed for probate, and the case, which has been continued from time to time on pleadings, may or may not reach final disposition at the impending term. The Blewett heirs are represented by Hon. James A. Granada of Chatham, Ala., while Hon. James T. Harrison and Messrs. Sturdivant, Owen and Garnett, of this city, represent the opposing litigants.

Another interesting case is that concerning the interpretation of the will of the late Harrison Johnston. There is no controversy over the legality of the will, but the instrument lacks clarity in its wording, and the executors of the estate, Col. W. B. Leedy, of Birmingham, and Hon. R. T. Williams, of this city, have through their attorney, Hon. D. W. Houston, of Aberdeen, requested the court to pronounce an official interpretation for their guidance and instruction in disposing of the estate.

There are on the docket, in addition to the cases mentioned above quite a number of divorce suits, many of which the litigants are negroes.

The following is the docket: Margie Smith et al. vs. J. D. Alexander et al., clear title.

Lillie Hood vs. Walter Hood, divorce.

Henderson Hunnicut vs. Anna Hunnicut, divorce.

J. E. Glover vs. Mrs. N. E. Glover, divorce.

Andrew Templeton vs. A. W. Hampton et al., enforce lien.

Sam Holman vs. Jno. Edin Holman, divorce.

Albert Vails vs. Wilda Vails, divorce.

E. L. Supples vs. Anne Supples, divorce.

Mrs. Pearl Free vs. L. A. Free, divorce.

William McLaren vs. Anna McLaren, divorce.

Maggie Tucker vs. Pierce Tucker, divorce.

Leopold Loeb, executor of Amanda Goolsby, deceased, vs. William Gore, petition for division of land.

Great Southern Phosphate Co. Inc. vs. R. G. Harris and wife et al. suit to enforce lien.

PATHFINDERS BE HERE TUESDAY

HIGHWAY SCOUTS REACH COLUMBUS EARLY NEXT WEEK.

PARTY TO SPEND THE NIGHT HERE

Will Be Met at State Line By Delegation of Local Automobileists.

Pathfinders who are to go over the two proposed routes of the Jackson Memorial Highway between Nashville and New Orleans will leave the Rock City at 8 o'clock next Monday morning, and will arrive in Columbus late the following afternoon, being scheduled to reach the city Tuesday, October 3, some time between 5 and 7 o'clock, p. m. The Chamber of Commerce received the itinerary of the pathfinders Tuesday, and immediately inaugurated plans providing for their reception and for their entertainment while in the city. They will be met at the state line by a party of local automobilists and will be escorted to the city, where they will spend the night, resuming their tour at 7 o'clock the following morning.

The party is composed of practically the same gentlemen who went over the two routes last fall, and includes Emory G. Dent, of Kentucky, Walter H. Crimm and W. I. Brown, of Indiana, the three official pathfinders, R. E. Tom, a civil engineer in the employ of the federal government, and W. K. Gibbs, editor of the Motor Age. Mr. Tom and Mr. Gibbs will act in an advisory capacity, and at various points along the route the party will be joined by local motorists, who will serve as pilots from town to town.

The long trip through the country naturally incites fatigue, and it will be remembered that when the pathfinders visited Columbus last fall they requested that no entertainment of an elaborate nature be arranged in their honor, as they desired rest and quiet more than anything else. This request was readily granted, and the same plan will be adhered to next week, though it is probable that the visitors will be informally entertained at a smoker or some gathering of a similar nature Tuesday night.

The pathfinders will travel to New Orleans over the route which includes Florence, Columbus and Meridian, and on their return trip will traverse the opposing route, which passes through Montgomery, Birmingham and Huntsville. The tentative itinerary follows:

Continued on page four.

CLAIMS TO BE A SOLDIER; IS SENTENCED FOR THEFT

JULIUS REED GETS 60 DAYS ON FARM FOR STEALING BICYCLE.

Justice of the Peace T. M. Cummings on Monday sentenced Julius Reed, who claims that he is a member of Uncle Sam's army, to serve 60 days on the county farm for stealing a bicycle.

The wheel was stolen from a local negro early in the summer, having been borrowed by the white man, who rode it to West Point and never returned it. Reed remained away from the city until last week, and on Saturday night was arrested by Officers Foreman and Robertson, while standing in front of the Princess Theatre, on North Market street.

He told the officers that he joined the military company in West Point and proceeded thence to the mobilization camp at Jackson. He said that he obtained a furlough some time ago, and intended to return. The state has a prior claim on him, however, and he will be compelled to work out his sentence here before rejoining the army.

Two Fire Alarms.
Two fire alarms were turned in Tuesday on account of burning grass near the tracks of the Mobile and Ohio railroad. The grass is supposed to have been ignited each time by sparks from a passing engine. The first call was sent in from the home of Mrs. Card on South Sixteenth street, and the second run was made to Third street and Eighth avenue, south. Neither time was any damage done.